United Nations S/2000/749

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the joint statement of Presidents Václav Havel of the Czech Republic, Stjepan Mesić of the Republic of Croatia and Milan Kučan of the Republic of Slovenia, signed and issued in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 11 July 2000 (see annex).

I should like to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jelena **Grčić Polić**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

00-55927 (E) 280700

Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint statement by Presidents Václav Havel of the Czech Republic, Stjepan Mesić of the Republic of Croatia and Milan Kučan of the Republic of Slovenia

Dubrovnik, 11 July 2000

The Presidents of the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia met on 10 and 11 July in Dubrovnik, the city known for its freethinking tradition.

They jointly express their disquiet over the latest developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially concerning the constitutional changes that have recently been adopted by the Yugoslav Parliament. In the opinion of the three Presidents, these constitutional changes jeopardize democracy, discriminate between the subjects of the Federation and amount to an arrogant rejection of internationally respected principles. Participants of the meeting hold that although the objective of the approved constitutional changes in Belgrade was to abolish the standing of Montenegro, they may in reality lead to the dissolution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Presidents welcomed the opportunity to meet with Mr. Milo Dukanović, President of Montenegro, and listened to his assessment of the current situation. They expressed their understanding for the Declaration issued by the Parliament of Montenegro, which they appraised as a responsible reaction to a situation which was imposed upon Montenegro by an unilateral act taken without the participation of her legitimate representatives. They expressed their support for the policies to date of Montenegro's Government and her President, especially for their latest courageous steps that lead towards further enhancement of relations with democratic States on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and of the entire region.

The Presidents are convinced that the international community must, without delay, do its outmost to protect the human, civic and constitutional rights of the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and thereby the citizens of Montenegro, as well as to prevent the current situation from evolving into a new wave of violence. They emphasize that they would deem unacceptable any power-based or confrontational solution the Belgrade regime may seek, all the more because that might lead to a destabilization of the entire region.

The citizens of Serbia and Montenegro alone have the right to determine, democratically, the fate of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They also have the right to become a part of the democratic Europe that is undergoing integration. The scenario of events in this region may no longer be determined by a man indicted for war crimes.